



July 2006

Initiatives Proposed by the Washington Learns Higher Education Advisory Committee

At the Higher Education Coordinating Board's July 2006 meeting, Ann Daley, executive director of Washington Learns, will report on the initiatives under consideration by its higher education committee. The committee is developing a document that describes "five big ideas" for consideration by the Washington Learns Steering Committee. These initiatives grew out of a report by the Northwest Education Research Center (NORED), which was to develop "an analysis of Washington State's higher education and workforce training system's capacity to meet projected workforce and demographic needs, the efficacy of its funding methodology and the appropriate cost sharing arrangement to finance the system (tuition, financial aid, and state appropriations)." NORED's report was delivered to the advisory committee on June 28, 2006.

Background

In 2005, the legislature passed SB 5441, creating "a comprehensive education study steering committee." The Washington Learns Steering Committee was created, as were three advisory committees specific to early learning, K-12, and higher education.

Each of the three advisory committees is in the process of developing a proposal to the steering committee. The steering committee will consider the recommendations of the advisory committees at its retreat and planning session August 9-10, 2006, moving toward adoption of a final report, by the steering committee, expected to be released on November 13, 2006.